

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Appl. No. : 10/825,254 Confirmation No.  
Applicant : Tim Joseph Avampato et al.  
Filed : April 15, 2004  
TC/A.U. :  
Examiner :

Docket No. : F-8034A(01-443-2)  
Customer No. : 34704

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance Applicants' continued duty of disclosure, the following documents are brought to the Examiner's attention:

U.S. Patent No. 3,093,157

U.S. Patent No. 3,752,183

U.S. Patent No. 3,426,801

U.S. Patent No. 4,326,377

U.S. Patent No. 2,936,557

A copy of the aforementioned documents are enclosed along with a listing on Form PTO-1449.

The undersigned hereby certifies that each item contained in this information disclosure statement was first cited in a search report issued on January 20, 2004 in a corresponding European application.

The undersigned submits the above-identified references for independent consideration by the Examiner and does not make any

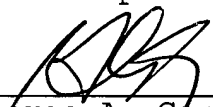
admission that these references are or are not material to the present invention or that these references are or are not prior art with respect to the present invention.

No fee is believed to be due as a result of this response. Should the Commissioner determine that a fee is due, he is hereby authorized to charge said fee to Deposit Account No. 02-0184.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Joseph Avampato et al.

By

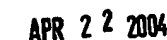
  
George A. Coury  
BACHMAN & LaPOINTE, P.C.  
Attorney for Applicants

Telephone: (203) 777-6628  
Telefax: (203) 865-0297  
Email: docket@bachlap.com

Date: April 20, 2004

I, Nicole Motzer, hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313" on April 20, 2004.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Nicole Motzer



Approved for use through 07/31/2006. OMB 0651-0031

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it contains a valid OMB control number.

Substitute for form 1449/PTO

(Use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet	1	of	1
-------	---	----	---

**Complete if Known**

Application Number	10/825,254
Filing Date	April 15, 2004
First Named Inventor	Tim Joseph Avampato et al.
Art Unit	
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	F-8034A(01-443-2)

## U. S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

[illegible]

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
--------------------	-----------------

\*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant. <sup>1</sup> Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). <sup>2</sup> See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at [www.uspto.gov](http://www.uspto.gov) or MPEP 901.04. <sup>3</sup> Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). <sup>4</sup> For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. <sup>5</sup> Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST.16 if possible. <sup>6</sup> Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. **DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND**

TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

*If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 (1-800-786-9199) and select option 2.*